OMAMORI HIMARI 8

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

MILAN MATRA

OMAMORI HIMARI
8

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

HIMARI

A CAT AYAKASHI WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE YUUTO TO SERVE AS HIS BODYGUARD. SHE WORRIES OVER YUUTO'S PRESENT STATE AS A DEMON SLAYER AND HER OWN PREPARATION FOR IT.

YUUTO

THE HERO OF THIS STORY. HE'S YOUR TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE'S THE CURRENT DEMON SLAYER OF THE "AMAKAWA FAMILY." HE HAS MADE UP HIS MIND TO BECOME A DEMON SLAYER AND HAS REPELLED AYAKASHI IN CONFRONTATIONS WITH HIS "LIGHT FERRY."

HITSUGI YAKOUIN

THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE YAKOUIN FAMILY, ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES. SHE'S A SELF-PROCLAIMED BEAUTIFUL PSYCHIC DETECTIVE.

Ver.Adult

Ver.Child

RINKO

YUUTO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. SHE'S LOOKED AFTER YUUTO LIKE A SIBLING SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE, BUT EVER SINCE HIMARI SHOWED UP, SHE'S STARTED SEEING HIM MORE AS A "MAN."

TAMA (THE FAIR NINE-TAILED FOX)

ONE OF JAPAN'S TOP THREE DEMONS, THOUGH STILL ONLY FRAGMENTED. SHE'S WORKING WITH SHUTEN-DOUJI TO EAT AYAKASHI WHILE KEEPING AN EYE ON HIMARI AND COMPANY.

KUESU JINGUUJI

HEIRESS TO ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES, THE JINGUUJI, AND YUUTO'S BETROTHED. IN THE PAST, SHE CAME IN CONTACT WITH A TREASURY OF TRUTH AND ENORMOUS KNOWLEDGE.

SHIZUKU

AN AYAKASHI WHO MANIPULATES WATER. SHE TRACKED DOWN A DESCENDANT OF THE JIBASHIRI FAMILY THAT MASSACRED HER CLAN AND FELL INTO AN ABYSS OF BLIND RAGE BUT WAS SAVED BY YUUTO'S WORDS AND REGAINED HER SENSES.

LIZLET.L.CHELSIE

LIZ FOR SHORT, THIS YOUNG GIRL WORKS AT THE CAFÉ WHERE HIMARI WORKS PART-TIME, BUT HER TRUE FORM IS A TSUKUMOGAMI—A TEACUP THAT HAS COME TO LIFE. SHE'S FOND OF YUUTO AND CALLS HIM HER "SPECIAL CUSTOMER."

THE STORY SO FAR

YUUTO AMAKAWA IS A HIGH SCHOOLER WITH A SEVERE ALLERGY TO CATS.
WHO SHOULD APPEAR BEFORE HIM ONE DAY OTHER THAN A FELINE AYAKASHI, HIMARI?

"I WILL PROTECT YOU, YOUNG LORD."

SUCH IS THE PROCLAMATION MADE BY HIMARI, HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE DUTY OF PROTECTING YUUTO, THANKS TO A PLEDGE MADE LONG AGO. BUT YUUTO ALSO HAS TO DEAL WITH HIS NEIGHBOR AND CHILDHOOD FRIEND, RINKO, AS WELL AS THE AYAKASHI SHIZUKU, WHO WAS SWAYED BY YUUTO'S KINDNESS AND DECIDED TO LIVE WITH HIM. WITH ALL THESE GIRLS IN HIS LIFE, YUUTO'S DAYS QUICKLY BECOME OFF-THE-WALL AND FULL OF FUN WITH NO END OF SURPRISES.

FINALLY, YUUTO DECIDES TO FULFILL HIS DUTY AS A DEMON SLAYER TO PROTECT EVERYONE'S LIVES, KEEP HIS PROMISE TO KUESU, LIFT THE BURDEN FROM HIMARI'S SHOULDERS, AND ALSO TO KEEP HIMARI FROM BEING CONSUMED BY HER BEASTLY NATURE. AND SO HE BEGINS HIS TRAINING TO HONE HIS LIGHT FERRY SKILLS.

THAT'S WHEN HITSUGI YAKOUIN, THE DEMON SLAYER WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE, APPEARS AND ADVISES YUUTO ON HIS LIGHT FERRY USAGE. SHE ALSO LEAVES HIMARI WITH AN OMINOUS WARNING:

"YOU, NOIHARA CRIMSON BLADE...ARE GONNA DIE!"

A BODYGUARD CANNOT DO HER JOB IF SHE FEARS DEATH.....
ALTHOUGH HIMARI UTTERS SUCH WORDS, SHE STILL SEEMS TO BE BROODING.

THEN ONE DAY, SHIZUKU AND KAGETSUKI ARE CONTACTED BY SOME AYAKASHI SEEKING AID FROM THE THREAT OF SHUTEN-DOUJI AND THE NINE-TAILS, SO THEY ALL HEAD TO A SKI RESORT AND HOT SPRINGS IN THE NORTHEAST.

YUUTO IS MOVED BY THE SIGHT OF HUMANS AND AYAKASHI LIVING SIDE BY SIDE IN THIS REGION.....AND HOPES THE SAME CAN HAPPEN IN HIS PART OF THE WORLD AS WELL.
HE TAKES A DIP IN THE HOT SPRINGS WHEN HE'S APPROACHED BY TWO SHADOWS:

"I'LL HANDLE THE FRONT...♡"
"MY INSIDES ARE A SOMEWHAT HOT LEMON TEA..."

KOFUYU, THE SNOW FAIRY WHO LIVES AT THE INN, AND LIZ SNEAK INTO THE SPRINGS TO WASH YUUTO'S BACK (?).

WHILE THE TWO START GETTING A LITTLE OUT OF HAND, A BLONDE WOMAN SUDDENLY APPEARS AND GRIPS YUUTO TIGHT.

"...MM-HM.
YOU'RE GROWING RIGHT ALONG."

SHE THEN PROMPTLY LAUNCHES AN ATTACK ON LIZ.
IT TURNS OUT SHE'S THE ADULT VERSION OF THE NINE-TAILS.

JUST WHEN IT SEEMS THAT YUUTO AND THE GIRLS ARE IN A PINCH, HIMARI COMES BARRELING IN.

"NINE-TAILS! BY CUTTING
YOU DOWN HERE AND NOW,
I DECLARE AN END TO THAT
IMMATURITY!!"

HIMARI UNLEASHES HER AYAKASHI POWERS, LASHING OUT AT THE NINE-TAILS AND BRINGING HER SWORD DOWN ON HER...BUT WILL IT BE ENOUGH!?

MENAGERIE 43: STEAMY CATFIGHT☆SUPER-MOBILE ANGEL CAT
IT GOT THROUGH !?
WOW...
.....TH-THE NINE-TAILS...

IT WAS JUST A SMALL CUT ON HER PINKIE, BUT THIS IS THE NINE-TAILS WHO'S BEEN ABLE TO REPEL ALL ATTACKS, REMEMBER?
THIS COULD BE IT ...!
MUKA (TIRK)
GUUH?
GASHI (GRAB)
BASHA (SPLASH)
ZA (SPLISH)
ZA
BWAH!!

OOH
.....
MROWR!
ぼろん
BORON (JIGGLE)
.....LIZ. RINKO. LISTEN TO ME FOR A SECOND.
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
YES?
ゆらあ……
YURAA (RIPPLE)
!
WHY? DID YOU NOT JUST GET AN EYEFUL FROM MEEE?
WHAT!?
HEY! KEEP 'EM SHUT !!
WHOA, ACK! BOTH OF YOU, STOP IT!

MENAGERIE 43:
STEAMY CATFIGHT ☆ SUPER-MOBILE ANGEL CAT

GAGI (GNASH)
BASHA (SPLASH)
KUWA (ROAR)
I APOLOGIZE, BUT THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO PUT HIS MOUTH UPON MY PERSON IS THE YOUNG LORD.
GIRI (GRIT)
TCH! AT SUCH CLOSE RANGE, I CANNOT MANEUVER MY YASU-TSUNA.
IF ONLY I COULD PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US...
BASHA (SPLISH)
HIMARI! HOLD ONTO HER!!
GIRIRI (CLENCH)

SHIZUKU!!
!
GASHI (GRAB)
ZAN (ZSH)

GOK! (CRACK)
MREOW!
GOO (WHOOSH)
ZAAAA (SSSHHH)
BA (LEAP)
HYU (WHOOSH)
ZASHAA (SLISH)
ZAAA

I'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS, YOU KNOW!!
GYUUOO (SWIIIIRL)
GIN! (GLINT)
DOON (BOOM)
GOGOGOGOGO (RRRRRRUMBLE)
PAAN (SPLASH)

!!
YES!
FREEZE THE WATER INTO ICICLES! YOU CAN DO THAT, RIGHT!?
KOFUYU-SAN!
Y-YES!
TCH! HOT WATER IS ONE THING, BUT SNOW IS HARDER TO MANIP-ULATE THAN WATER... YOU KNOW.
HYOO (WHOOO)
KIIN (GLEAM)
KIN (SPLINKT)
PAKI (CRACK)

PIERCE!!
KA (FLASH)
SHAAAA (SHIIIING)
ZUSHAAAA (SHIIING)
KIIN (FREEZE)
GI (CREAK)
GIN
...IT'S NO GOOD. SHE HAS BLOCKED THEM ALL!
NO, THAT'S FINE!

TAKE MY DEATH BLOW! ☆
MY VERY OWN TAD TOO AROMATIC (REJECT) FLAVOR TEA!!
BA (LEAP)
レイズ!!
ZAAAA (SSSSHHH)
SPRAY!!
NOW, RINKO!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
MUWA (HAZE)
……!!
GARARA (RATTLE)
PAKIN (CRIK)

HAAAH!
ZA (ZIP)
ZA
GA (THWACK)
HIYAAAAAH!!
BISHU (WHIP)

GO!
YOU KNOW
I CAN'T USE MAGIC OR WITCH-CRAFT!!
SORRY, IT'S JUST A MOP!
HIMARI!!

PUNISH...
SHUGA (SLASH)
...MENT!!

ドボオン
DOBOON (KERSPLASH)
TCH! I'M NEARLY AT MY LIMIT.
I UNDER-ESTIMATED THE CAT'S AYAKASHI POWER.
!!
.....WHAT THE —!?
TAN (TMP)
.....
ばしゃ
BASHA (SPLASH)
21"
BICHA (SPLISH)

...SHE SHRANK!?
IRA (IRK)
.....SHE...
HUUH!?
ZAN (ZSH)
WAH!
GYURU (SPIN)
RU
RU
SHIPAAAN (POP)
ぽぉん

I AM NOT ABOUT TO LET HER GET AWAY!!
DA (DASH)
WE FINALLY WORE OUT HER SPIRIT POWER TO THIS POINT!
CHA (CHIK)
EVEN IF SHE IS LITTLE, SHE'S STILL SCARY-YYYY!
WE DON'T NEED TWO LOLITA CHARACTERS, YOU KNOW?
SHE'S ON ENERGY-SAVING MODE... YOU KNOW.
WELL, WELL!
SO YOU STILL HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO THWART MY EFFORTS...
...DO YOU !!?
MEOW!
GO (BANG)
GAIN (GOOONG)

ZUGA (THWAP)
MROWR!
SHIIIN! (STHIIING)
BA (DART)
.....!!
GASHI (GRAB)
GWAH !?
HIMARI !?
GMIAOOOW!
HIMARI-SAN!
SHE'S GETTING AWAY...! SNOW FAIRY, TURN ALL THE SNOW HERE INTO WATER AND LET ME USE IT, YOU KNOW!
ZAAAA (SSSSHHH)
!! PLEASE WAIT!
THAT IS...
KIRA (GLEAM)

HOH HOH HOH HOH HOH!
(VWEEEE)
BASASA (FLUTTER)
KIIIIIII (VWEEEE)
I AM THE FLASH OF SILVER THAT PIERCES THE DARKNESS!
THE SUPER- ☆ MOBILE ANGEL, KUESU JINGUUJI-SAMA, HAS MADE HER ENTRANCE!!
ZURU (SLIP)
THE IDIOT HAS ARRIVED YOU KNOW

YUU-CHAN AND OTHERS SIGHTED BEYOND TARGET.
(OOOO (WHOOO)
HM!
A DEMON SLAYER ...!
KYUIII (VWEEE)
DO (BLAST)
SHU (SWISH)
SHOOTING THINGS OUT OF YOUR MOUTH...
FU (FZZT)
...ISN'T VERY LADY-LIKE, YOU KNOW?

KIIII
(SKREEE)
SUCH AN UN-COUTH BEING ...
ZUOO
(BLAAAAST)
...SHALL HAVE <DEATH> UPON HER!!

OOO (WHOOO)
.....!!
DOGOO (BOOOM)
...YOU KNOW?
SHE DID IT ...!?

KUESU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OH, YUU-CHA— I MEAN, YUUTO AMAKA-WA.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO AND COULDN'T MAKE IT
DID YOU SEE MY LOVELY DISPLAY OF BRAVERY?
NOW HURRY UP AND BECOME AN UPSTANDING DEMON SLAYER TO MATCH ME.
UH...
...ACTUALLY, NEVER YOU MIND THAT. HURRY UP AND MAKE ME YOURS...
HOH-HOH-HOH! I'VE MUSSED UP MY HAIR.
OOOO (WHOOOO)
TO (TMP)
YOOOUNG LOOORD...
!!
BOKO (BLOOP)
HOH-HOH-HOH. WHATEVER ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU KNOW.
WE JUST SAID THE RIGHT THINGS ON THE PHONE TO WORRY YOU AND GET YOU HERE.

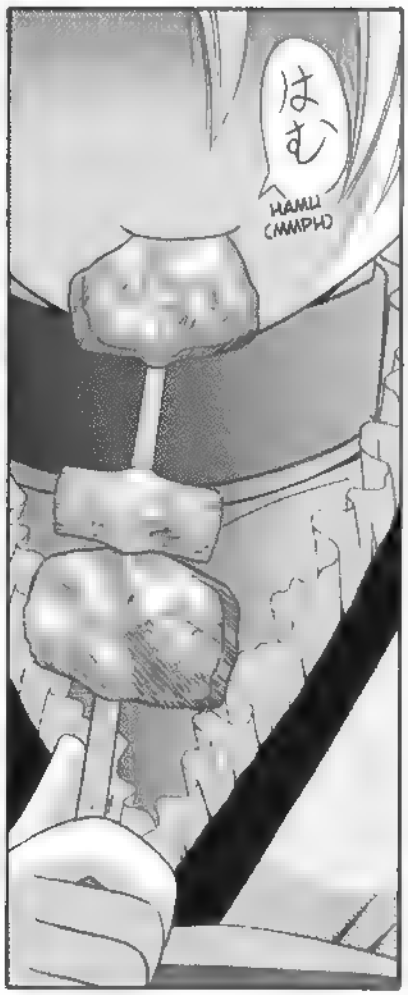
GATA (SHIVER)
ガタガタ
GATA
MEEEEW...
HIMARI!?
YOUNG LORD, I CANNOT GO ON..... I AM SO COLD I FEAR I SHALL PERISH.
GATA (CLING)
ギュ
WAAH! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
PERHAPS THE YOUNG LORD COULD SAVE ME IF HE WARMED ME UP...
I SAY
D-DO YOU NOW?
...SNOW FAIRY, REFILL THE BATH-WATER... YOU KNOW.
ON IIIT!
I'VE CAUGHT A BIT OF A CHILL TOO~!
HMMMM.
I SUPPOSE THIS WARMTH IS NOT SO BAD EITHER, BUT...
I SHOULD HAVE MUCH PREFERRED THE YOUNG LORD SHARING HIS BODY HEAT WITH ME.

I THINK KUESU BLEW HER TO KINGDOM COME, DON'T YOU?
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
BY THE WAY, WHAT BECAME OF THE NINE-TAILS?
PACHA (SPLISH)
HRM. JUST AS I THOUGHT. IT'S ALL IN HAVING THE BIG JUGS...YOU KNOW.
MONYU (SMOOSH)
MONYU
EEK! WH-WHAT ARE YOU—AH!
HM-HMPH! SHE WAS A PIECE OF CAKE.
AND THAT WASN'T EVEN THIRTY PERCENT OF MY POTENTIAL MAGIC!
BUKU (BLUB)
BUKU
WHAT!?
YUUTO-SAMA WAS SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE SIGHT TO BEHOLD, GIVING OUT ALL THOSE WELL-AIMED COMMANDS. ♡
BASHA (SPLASH)
STOP IT— HAAHN!
NOW, LOOKIE HERE. YOUR NIPPLES ARE GETTING HARD YOU KNOW
DON'T AHN!
WELL, LEADING WITH HIMARI-SAN, WE ALL HAD A HAND IN SHAVING DOWN HER AYAKASHI POWER DEFENSES ~!

...HE IS STILL NOT QUITE THERE... YET.
AAAW!
UGH! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THESE PRETTY GIRLS!
THAT OFFENSIVE ONSLAUGHT AT THE BEHEST OF THE YOUNG LORD WAS MOST FINE.
HOW-EVER...

HRM-HRM. YOU DO REALIZE KEEPING A HAREM IS ILLEGAL IN THIS LAND?
HA! HA! HA! USE THE MEN'S INDOOR BATHHOUSE THEN.
...I FEEL A CHILL AFTER THAT BATH...

MUKYU (MUNCH)


はむ
HAMU (MMPH)

MENAGERIE 44: THE CATS' (TINY) TWILIGHT

After Grandpa Gen and Grandma Sawa passed, I ceased to pay the bill.
Well, it was not of much use to me anyhow.
SO HIMARI, WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK HOME?
WHOOOA! THIS IS AMAZING! I CAN REALLY HEAR HIMARI'S VOICE!
THOUGH IT SEEMS A LITTLE OFF FROM THE REAL THING.
WHOEVER INVENTED THIS TELEPHONE GADGET IS A GENIUS!
HEARING YOUR VOICE SIMPLY WILL NOT DO!
I WISH TO FEEL YOU IN THE FLESH, HIMARI!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
...Hey.

I'VE JUST NEVER USED ONE BE-FORE!
I DID TOO!
OH DEAR
KAYA-SAMA, DID YOU NOT KNOW OF THE APPLIANCE KNOWN AS THE TELE-PHONE?

HAAH... REVIVING THE TELEPHONE LINE ROBS ME OF HALF MY PURPOSE IN LIFE.
I DESPISE E-MAIL.
'TIS A MOST TRAGIC SITUATION.
AH, NO. AYA'S JUST BABBLING.
What is this all about? Did something happen?
SO YOU SAY. BUT I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOATHE HAVING STAMPS STUCK TO YOU TIME AND AGAIN.
'TIS BECAUSE THE GLUE MAKES ME ITCH SOMETHING AWFUL.
AND LAST TIME, YOU ADHERED ONE TO MY MOST TREASURED PARTS, KAYA-SAMA. 'TWAS MOST TRYING...
HAAH
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHERE THE TREASURED PARTS OF A LETTER ARE?
If anything happens, contact me at once.
!
There is no guarantee that the Nine-Tails will not come for you too.
OKAY, I GOT IT.

SOME FOX IS NO MATCH FOR A PROUD WOLF!!
NO NEED TO WORRY!
HM! HM! HMMM!
BI (JAB)
I DON'T NEED SOME DUMB CAT.
STREETCH!
...OKEY-DOKEY. GOOD-BYE. I'LL CALL AGAIN!
C-CURSE YOUR SHARP EARS.
He is not. 'Tis only I.
WAFU (GIDDY)
HEY, IS YUUTO THERE? PUT HIM ON!
IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER SO BADLY, KAYA-SAMA, WHY DO YOU NOT GO TO TAKAMIYA?
...YOU HAVE BEEN TO THE CITY BEFORE.
NO CAN DO.
ALL THAT CONCRETE AND ASPHALT GETS TO ME.
HIMARI, DO TRY TO REFRAIN FROM DOING ANYTHING DANGEROUS—

...THINKING ANY GOOD WOULD COME OF IT?
YOUNG LORD, I AM PEEVED.
DID YOU BRING A CAT INTO NORTHERN SNOW COUNTRY...
WELL, WE BECAME ALLIES WITH ZENJU-SAN AND KOFUYU-SAN.
AND WE GOT A STRIKE IN AGAINST TAMAMO-NO-MAE.
BUT IS THAT ALL?
THANKS TO IT, MY BODY WAS NEARLY FROZEN TO THE CORE, YOUNG LORD.
DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT.
DO SOME-THING? NOW JUST A MINUTE ...!

MEEEOOOOW!
W-WAIT! .....HEY, YOUR BODY'S NOT COLD AT ALL!
GOOD HEAVENS! I SUPPOSE I HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO RIDE ON TOP OF YOU LIKE SO, YOUNG LORD-MEOW! ♡
BESHI (SMACK)
...NNOH?
YOU SURE ARE TAKING IT EASY FOR EXAMS BEING JUST 'ROUND THE CORNER, AMAKAWA.
Y-YES, SIR. THAT'S TRUE...
BUT I DON'T THINK A FAILING GRADE IS SOMETHING YOU WANNA AIM FOR, YOU HEAR?
AH-HA-HA-HA!
SINCE IT'S SPRING, I CAN UNDER-STAND YOUR BEING SLEEPY.
HA-HA!

IF YOU DON'T MANAGE TO PASS, YOU'LL BE SIGNED UP FOR ULTRA-SADISTIC INSTRUC-TION FROM KISARAGI-SENSEI.
FU!
FU!
FU!
YOU'LL HAVE TO SUBJECT YOUR BODY TO THE FULL COURSE.
FU!
FU!
UM, THAT'S A LITTLE...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
SENSEEEI, THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A REWARD TO MEEE!
HM? YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN TO SAY THAT.
DO (OINK)
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!
WOULDN'T THE SHOCK BE TOO MUCH FOR OUR INNOCENT LITTLE AMAKA-WA?
YOU WANT SHOCK? THAT'S WHAT YUUTO'S LIFE HAS BECOME, DAY IN AND DAY OUT!
NUSHI (CREAK)
THANKS TO THAT NAUGHTY KITTY!!

...'TIS SO NICE AND WARM.
GORON (ROLL)
.....
— KUESU, TELL ME THE TRUTH.
DID YOU REALLY MANAGE TO RID US OF THE NINE-TAILS?
SO IN THE END, YOU LET HER GET AWAY...YOU KNOW?
I HAD TO. IF I HAD RAMPED UP MY MAGIC ANY MORE, EVEN TEMPORARILY...
...THERE WAS A RISK OF THE SURROUNDING TEMPERATURE INCREASING TO THE POINT OF CAUSING A HORRIFIC AVALANCHE.
IT BLINDED ME.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT WASN'T NATURAL FOR THAT MAGIC TO EXPLODE LIKE THAT...
WHAT, YOU DON'T TRUST ME?

THEN WE WILL BE STUCK IN THIS PATTERN.
...UNTIL SHE EATS MORE AYAKASHI ...YOU KNOW.
WELL, NO MATTER. 'TWILL PUT A DAMPER ON HER RECOVERY TO BE SURE.
NOW THAT WE HAVE A CHANCE AT VICTORY, I WANT TO SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL, AND SOON.
TON (TAP)
TON
SHE WILL NOT BE ON THE MOVE FOR A WHILE.
DID YOU JUST SAY...A CHANCE AT VICTORY?
PIKU (TWITCH)
CAT, IT LOOKED TO ME LIKE YOU USED A PROHIBITED TACTIC IN OUR EARLIER BATTLE.
!
A MANNER OF CONDUCT FORBIDDEN BY THE AMAKAWA FAMILY.

—YOU FOUGHT WITH AYAKASHI POWER INFUSED INTO YOUR BLADE.
KAKOOON (THWACK)
カコオーン
CONSIDERING HER OPPONENT, SHE DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE MANY OPTIONS... YOU KNOW.
BUT I WAS FACING THE NINE-TAILS!
HAD I NOT TAKEN THE NECESSARY RISKS, I WOULD NOT HAVE TRIUMPHED!!
...JUST SO.
OR ARE CATS TYPICALLY BEASTS WITH SUCH POOR MEMORIES?
WHAT?
THAT... IS A LIE.

!!
CAT, THIS PAST CHRISTMAS NIGHT...
...YOU GROUND TO DUST A DOZEN OR MORE OF THE NINE-TAILS' MINIONS USING YOUR AYAKASHI POWERS... OR DID YOU FORGET THAT?
THAT DAY—
YES, ON THAT DAY, I WANTED TO MAKE THE NIGHT THAT THE YOUNG LORD REACHED HIS DECISION ONE TO REMEMBER.
I WAS IN RAPTURE AS I RAISED MY GLASS IN A TOAST AND TRIED TO FILL IT WITH THEIR BLOOD.

DO YOU NOT ENJOY THE HUNT?
YES, I DO—!
NO, I AM NOT LIKE THAT.
OH, BUT YOU ARE.

—IT GOES TO SHOW THAT THERE'S A FAR MORE TERRIFYING BEAST THAN THE NINE-TAILS AND CLOSER AT HAND TOO.
I'M GOING TO TAKE DOWN THE WARM-AIR FIELD I SET UP.
IF YOU DON'T GET INSIDE, YOU'LL FREEZE, YOU HEAR?
!!
W-WAIT...YOU KNOW.
FU-FU. SO I SUPPOSE THE YOUNG LORD IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A DEMAND-ING BLOOD-LINE.
IF I AM TO PASS JUDGMENT UPON MYSELF... I TOO STILL HAVE MUCH TRAINING TO DO.

BAKOO (CLANNNG)
KUZAKI-SAN'S INCRED-IBLE!
WWAH
MY STRAIGHT BALL!
TAKE THAAAT !!
ZA (SKFF)
SHE SAID THAT AFTER EXAMS, SHE'S GOT A PRACTICE MATCH WITH ANOTHER SCHOOL.
OOOH, FOR JUST BEING A STAND-IN HIRED TO HELP THE TEAM, KUZAKI'S THE LEADING HITTER AGAIN TODAY!
WHADDAYA KNOW?
I WILL REMAIN ON CAMPUS. THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST DO.
WELL, TO-MOR-ROW THEN.
HM? YEAH. AND YOU, NOIHARA-SAN?
YOUNG LORD. MASTER MASAKI. ARE YOU GOING HOME?

IS IT TRUE YOU WENT TO A SKI RESORT WITH NOIHARA-SAN AND KUZAKI THE OTHER DAY?
GU (T_T;G)
Y-YEAH...
THE WAY NOIHARA-SAN SO BLATANTLY SKIPS HER SCIENCE AND MATH CLASSES, SHE MUST BE IN TROUBLE.
IF ONLY I HAD THE SMARTS TO TUTOR HER MYSELF
OH, RIGHT. SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO PREPARE FOR A NEW SPELL.
WH-WHAT?
BY THE WAY, YOUNG LOAF.
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO MONOP-OLIZE ALL THE BOOBS!
INVITE ME TOO, YOU LITTLE SHIT!!
THE HUMAN POPULATION WAS SO OUT-NUMBERED THAT I COULDN'T DO IT.
AND SKIING WASN'T EXACTLY THE POINT OF THE TRIP EITHER...
EH? YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW WE'VE ESTABLISHED COEXISTENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND AYAKASHI?

THIS REGION HAS ALWAYS HAD A STRONG ORAL TRADITION ABOUT SNOW FAIRIES...
IS IT REALLY SO SPECIAL ANYWAY? COEXISTENCE, I MEAN.
HMMMM
YES. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.
I SEEEE. GOOD QUESTION. HMMMM...
'TIS BECAUSE IN CENTRAL AREAS, AYAKASHI STILL REMAIN HIDDEN.
YOURS IS AN EXTREMELY SPECIAL CASE.
SO HOW DID YOU COME TO MEET KOFUYU-SAN?
AH, THAT'S A GOOD STORY.
THOUGH A LITTLE EMBARRASSING...
DURING A MILD WINTER TWO YEARS AGO, THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE WAS MUCH TOO HIGH, AND I HAD COLLAPSED, ONLY TO BE NURSED BACK TO HEALTH BY THIS MAN AND HIS WIFE...
NOT VERY HONORABLE FOR A SNOW FAIRY
THAT IS PRETTY EMBARRASSING.
EVER SINCE THEN, I HAVE STAYED ON TO HELP KEEP UP THE INN.
SHE'S GOOD-NATURED AND A LOT OF HELP.

SO THAT WAS HOW THEIR SITUATION CAME TO BE.
BUT ALL WE HAVE IN THE CITY ARE URBAN LEGENDS.
WHAT'S UP, YUUTO? EXAMS GOT YOU DOWN?
IN THAT CASE, LET'S GO TO THE ARCADE AND LET LOOSE TO DE-STRESS.
PI (PONK)
THAT'S NOT DE-STRESSING, THAT'S RUNNING AWAY.
GU (GRAB)
C'MON, WE'RE GOING.
THAT'S FINE! IT'S NATURAL FOR SCHOOLKIDS TO SCURRY AWAY IN THE FACE OF TESTS!
TAKAMIYA
STREET
HEY, YUUTO. OVER THERE.
PIRO
PIRO (JINGLE)
PIRO
HM?
GYUUUN (BOOOOP)
KACHI (CLICK)
KACHI

SHIZUKU...
AIN'T IT DANGEROUS FOR HER TO BE HERE ALONE?
THAT'S SHIZUKU-CHAN, ISN'T IT?
GAN (BANG)
YOU KNOW
GAN
YOU KNOW
...S-SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING VERY WELL.
Y-YEAH.
SHIZUKU-CHAN, WHICH DO YOU WANT?
!
...THAT STUFFED SNAKE IN THE MIDDLE ...
SNAKE... HUH.
SHE'S GOT BIZARRE TASTE
YOU CAN'T JUST FISH FOR THEM AT RANDOM.
FIRST YOU HAVE TO PINPOINT WHICH ONES WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO NAB.
IT'S YUUTO AND..... HIS FLUNKY.
YOU THINK IT'LL TAKE ¥200?
YEAH, ¥100 TO SET IT UP AND THEN ANOTHER TO GRAB IT BY THE STRING.

ぼとん
BOTON (PLOP)
THANK YOU...
...YOU KNOW.
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT!
AND THAT STUFFED ANIMAL'S NOT EVEN THAT CUTE
THOUGH IT COST ME ¥500.
I KNEW IT. GUYS WITH SKILLS LIKE MINE GET ALL THE LADI...
OOF!
GOKYU (SMOOSH)
QUIT EMBARRASSING YOURSELF!

H-HEY THERE, HARU-CHAN. LONG TIME NO SEE.
YOU'RE HERE TOO
IS THIS A MUGGER YOU KNOW?
YO! LONG TIME NO SEE, AMA-KAWA.
(FLICK)
COULD YOU LEND ME ¥100? ♥
HEY, ISN'T IT RISKY TO BE TAKING A LITTLE SQUIRT LIKE THIS WITH YOU?
LOLITA, LOLITA!
GO (BONK)
T-TAIZOU, I DON'T MIND, IT'S OKAY.
AH! SINCE WE'RE ALL HERE, LET'S TAKE A PHOTO IN THERE! ♪
YOU LITTLE —!
AND YOU LEFT OFF THE "-SAN" AFTER AMAKAWA! STOP SHAMING YOUR BIG BROTHER!!
OOOUCH! WE'RE ALL BUDDIES HERE! BUDDIES!!
YEOW!
WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ALL OF A SUDDEN !!?
GURI (NOOGIE)
GURI

KASHA (FLASH)
...SORRY, YUUTO. I'VE GOTTA GET THIS GIRL HOME.
AWWW, C'MONNN! I CAN STAY OUT A LITTLE LONGER!
Boooo
WELL, SHIZUKU-CHAN, SEE YOU LATER!
HA HA HA
YUUTO! YOU GET HER HOME SAFE!
YOU KNOW
WELL, SHALL WE HEAD HOME...?
ONE MORE PICTURE ...
THIS TIME JUST THE TWO OF US... YOU KNOW.

LITTLE SISTER ...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
I WAS SURPRISED... TO SEE YOU HAD FEMALE FRIENDS OF THE GAL PERSUASION, YOU KNOW.
OH, HARU-CHAN? THAT'S 'COS SHE'S TAIZOU'S LITTLE SISTER.
KYU (SQUEEZE)
!
MAYBE EVEN LESS THAN THAT...
...JUST HIS LITTLE SISTER... YOU KNOW.
PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW US PROBABLY LOOK AT US AND THINK I'M ALSO...

I DIDN'T BUY ANYTHING THAT HAS TO BE REFRIGERATED OR ANY MILK, SO IT'LL BE FINE...YOU KNOW.
BY THE WAY, ARE THESE GROCERIES GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
WE SPENT QUITE SOME TIME IN THERE.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
N-NOTHING... YOU KNOW.
BUT I STILL WON'T LET GO!
TONIGHT WILL BE FRIED CHICKEN AND BOILED VEGGIES... YOU KNOW.
AND THE MISO SOUP WILL HAVE WAKAME SEAWEED AND TOFU.
THAT'S OUR MOTHER SHIZUKU! WELL, WE'D BETTER GET HOME FAST.
LET'S...
M-MOTHER —!?
...YOU KNOW.
HM?
A MOTHER OR KID SISTER DOESN'T HAVE THESE KINDS OF FEELINGS... YOU KNOW.

I-I'M NOT YOUR MOTHER OR LITTLE SISTER. I'M JUST A GIRL... YOU KNOW.
...LET'S TAKE OUR TIME...AND TAKE THE SCENIC ROUTE!
WH-WHAT AM I SAYING —!?
かあ
あ
KAAA (BLUUUUUSH)

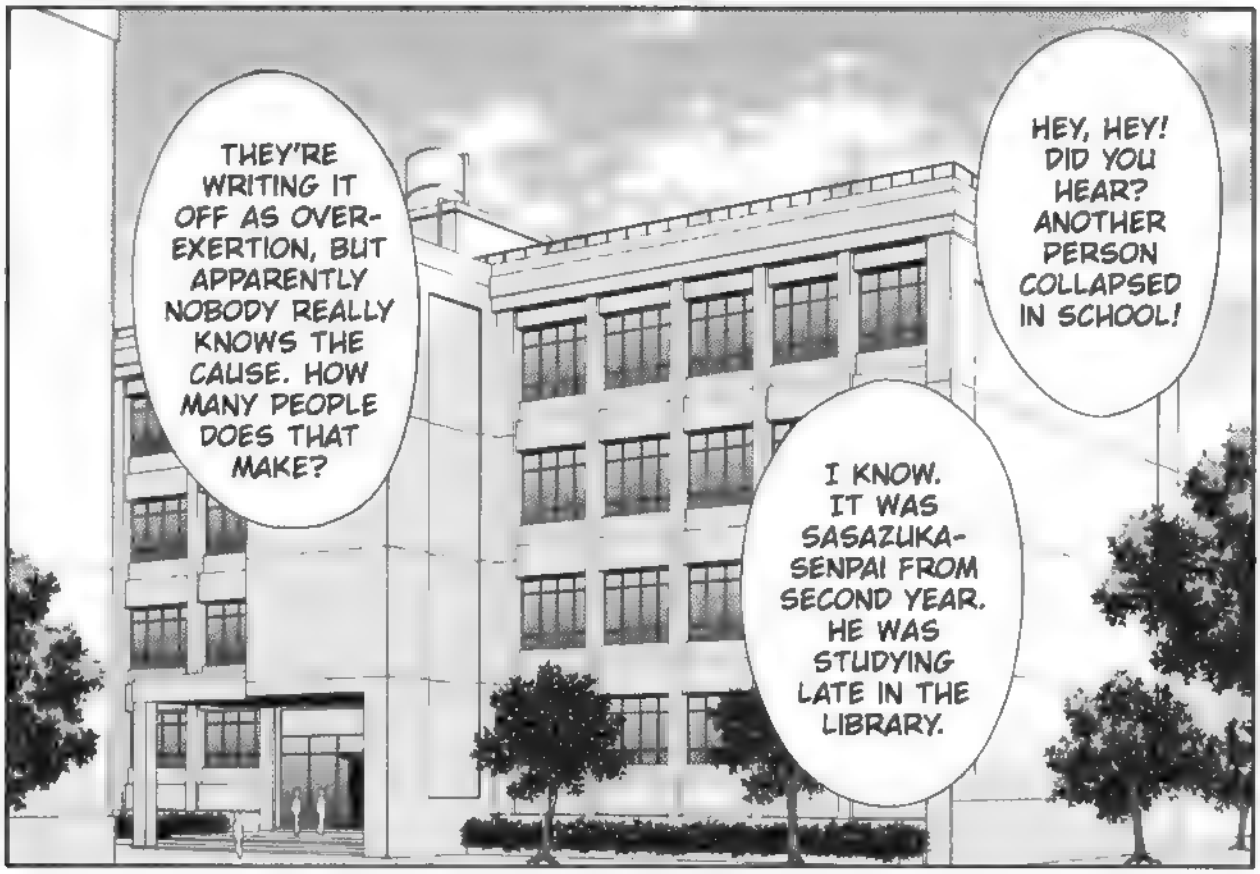
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY I GET TO WALK HOME WITH YOU, SHIZUKU.
NIKO (BEAM) にこ
NADE (PET) なでなで
HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A NICE STROLL?
KUH, AAH.....
THIS JUST GOES TO SHOW..... HOW SPOILED I AM...YOU KNO...OW...
IWAWA (OR BB-E) いわわ
KYUUUN (TWINGE) きゅーん
I'M WET... YOU KNOW.

C-COME ON, WHY ARE YOU DRIPPING WET?
BICHO (DAMP)
BICHO
YOU GOT ME WET... TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR IT.
HUH?
...BUT...
GYUU (GRIP)
...WHEN YOU'VE LIVED AS LONG AS I HAVE, TAKING YOUR TIME LIKE THIS EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE IS NICE TOO... YOU KNOW.

MEANWHILE, THE CAT PRINCESS...

I AM ALWAYS REMINDING HIM TO COME STRAIGHT HOME. THIS MERITS A PUNISH-MENT...
HAS THE YOUNG LORD TAKEN SOME KIND OF DETOUR ON THE WAY BACK ...?

MENAGERIE 45: THE CAT'S TEST PIERCES THE NIGHT


HEY, HEY! DID YOU HEAR? ANOTHER PERSON COLLAPSED IN SCHOOL!
I KNOW. IT WAS SASAZUKA-SENPAI FROM SECOND YEAR. HE WAS STUDYING LATE IN THE LIBRARY.
THEY'RE WRITING IT OFF AS OVER-EXERTION, BUT APPARENTLY NOBODY REALLY KNOWS THE CAUSE. HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES THAT MAKE?

I SEE SOMEONE RIGHT OVER THERE WHO IS YET IN DANGER, EVEN IF SHE TAKES HER TESTS.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MISSED TOO MANY CLASSES, SO I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!
RINKO. ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY?
BISHI (JAB)
Ulll

IT MUST BE TOUGH FOR HIM TO MISS CLASS DURING EXAMS.
IT'S FINALS TOO, SO IF HE DOESN'T DO WELL ON HIS MAKEUP EXAMS, HE'LL BE IN DANGER OF GETTING LEFT BACK.

MM-HMM. I KNOW IT'S MEAN TO SAY, BUT THOSE ARE EXACTLY MY THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT.
YOU ARE FORTUNATE TO NOT HAVE BEEN THE ONE WHO FAINTED, RINKO.
I'M RAISING A CHEER FOR MYSELF FOR WHEN I SURVIVE MY TESTS!
AFTER THAT, IT'S GETTING MY REPORT CARD, HAVING SPRING BREAK, AND BECOMING A SHINING SECOND-YEAR COME APRIL!!
I'LL BE PRAYING YOU DON'T GET ANY FAILING MARKS...
I WONDER WHAT THE STORY IS BEHIND THESE SUDDEN FAINTING SPELLS.
ABOUT THAT...
APPARENTLY, THERE ARE SOME OCCULT STIRRINGS IN THE WORKS...
"OCCULT," YOU SAIIID?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
.....

"I SAW A GHOST."
...THEY SAID.
THE MAJORITY OF VICTIMS HAVE BEEN THOSE STAYING AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL VERY LATE.
I HEARD FROM A TEACHER THAT WHEN THEY WERE DISCOVERED, THEY ALL SAID THE SAME THING.
GH-GH-GH-GHOST!?
IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE SEASON FOR GHOST STORIES...
THERE ARE ALWAYS GHOSTS AMONG US.
TRUE, BUT
RIGHT THERE AND THERE...!
I ALSO SEE THE MELANCHOLY FACE OF A MAN STANDING TO THE RIGHT OF THE CLASS PRESIDENT.
EEEEEK!! WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CAT PRINCESS!!?
EEW! WHO IS IT!? IS HE STILL NEXT TO ME!?
NOW HE IS BEHIND YOU

WHATEVER IS THE MATTER? ARE YOU AFRAID OF GHOSTS?
!
I'M N-NOT SCARED! I LOVE ALL THINGS OCCULT, SO LET THEM COME!!
Y-Y-Y-YEAH!
AND TO PROVE IT, HOW ABOUT WE SEARCH THE SCHOOL TONIGHT!?
ドン
DON (BAM)
HOHH. THAT IS A GOOD IDEA.
GARA (RATTLE)
Y-YOU IDIOT! RINKO, YOU WENT TOO FAR!
AW, C'MON! WE'LL BE FINE!
IT WON'T BE SO SCARY IF WE ALL GO!
...I THINK.
I'M HERE. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SEN-SE!?
THERE IS JUST SOME-THING I WANTED TO DIS-CUSS... OH?
YOU ALL DO REALIZE EXAMS ARE OVER? YOU CAN GO HOME NOW.
WE WILL! WELL, YUUTO, WE'LL BE AT KARA-OKE!
IS AMAKAWA HERE?

MENAGERIE 45: THE CAT'S TEST PIERCES THE NIGHT

—NOW I KNOW THIS IS SOMEWHAT EARLY TO BE HAVING THIS TALK, BUT CONSIDERING YOUR FAMILY SITUATION, AMAKAWA, I FIGURED I WOULD ASK AHEAD OF TIME.
AFTER YOU GRADUATE, ARE YOU PLANNING ON FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION OR ENTERING THE WORKFORCE?
.....
I DON'T CARE IF YOU ONLY HAVE A VAGUE IDEA, BUT TELL ME WHATEVER YOU MIGHT HAVE IN MIND.
IF YOU HAVE NOTHING IN MIND, THAT'S FINE TOO.
I'M NOT TRYING TO FREAK YOU OUT AS A SUBSTITUTE PARENTAL FIGURE OR ANYTHING.
BUT I AM IN CHARGE OF YOU AT SCHOOL.
I FIGURED I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW I CARE.
RIGHT, UH...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, DOES A DEMON SLAYER NEED AN EDUCATION?
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER BEING TOLD BY MY GRANDPA, AND MY DAD WAS NEVER AROUND TO TELL ME.

KUESU'S THE CLOSEST CASE I CAN THINK OF, BUT...
IN A SYSTEM RIDDLED WITH FAKES, YOU CAN'T EXPRESS YOUR OWN STYLE
...SHE'S A BONA FIDE WITCH WHO HAS TAPPED INTO THE TRUTHS OF THIS WORLD.
SHE'S TOO FAR OUT OF MY LEAGUE TO USE AS A REFER-ENCE.
...I'M SORRY, BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW YET.
YEAH. THAT'S FINE. DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
BUT IF ANYTHING DOES COME TO MIND, YOU CAN ALWAYS COME TO ME FOR ADVICE.
THANK YOU.
.....

SENSEI... DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE OCCULT?
HUNH?
THAT'S PRETTY RANDOM...
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT GHOST STORY THAT'S POPPED UP? OH BROTHER.
BUUU (VRRR) BUUUU
HOLD ON A SEC... HELLO?
...WHO THE HELL IS THIS?
AND HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUM-BER?
!
SU / (SWF)
すっ
IT'S SOME GIRL I DON'T KNOW.
BUT SHE ASKED ME TO HAND THE PHONE TO YOU, YUUTO AMAKAWA.

I GUESS AMAKAWA KNOWS THIS PERSON
You're still half an ordinary person. It'd be in your best interests if you didn't reveal yourself until you're properly prepared. Kuh-hee-hee.
HITSUGI! IT'S YOU, HITSUGI YAKOUIN, ISN'T IT!?
!
You're not about to tell her about being a demon slayer, are you?
HELLO...?
FOR THE RECORD, I'M PROVIDING SOME FAN SERVICE RIGHT NOW
KUH HEE HEE. BINGO.
YOU LEFT OFF THE "-SAN," BUT I'M HAPPY YOU STILL REMEMBERED ME, HONEY. ♡
LIKE...A TEST?
You could say that. Kuh hee hee...
IT'S SMALL ACHIEVEMENTS LIKE THAT, WHICH MAKE YOU MORE APPEALING TO OTHER DEMON SLAYERS. ESPECIALLY IN YOUR CASE.
KUH HEE HEE
What?
BY THE WAY, YOU THINK YOU COULD SETTLE THIS CASE OF THE GHOST SIGHTINGS AT YOUR SCHOOL?

Well, bye-bye ~!
BUTSU (CLICK)
AH! WAIT JUST A MINUTE! HEY!
HIT RE-DIAL, AMA-KAWA.
The number you are trying to reach is currently out of service ...
KUESU GAVE HER NAME IN A RAGE TO THE SUPPORTERS AND OBSERVERS, SO TRY YOUR BEST.
THIS IS A FAN SERVICE SHOT FOR SOMEBODY SOMEWHERE~!
♪
YOU MIGHT GAIN SOMETHING YOU NEVER EVEN IMAGINED, YOU KNOW?
.....
—I CANNOT SAY WHAT THIS WILL AMOUNT TO.
THOUGH HAD NEITHER THE YOUNG LORD NOR RINKO AND COMPANY SHOWN UP, I WAS PREPARED TO INVESTIGATE MYSELF.

THIS CAMPUS IS WHERE THE YOUNG LORD SPENDS HALF OF HIS DAILY LIFE.
THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I WILL ALLOW SOME UNKNOWN FORCE TO RUN WILD WITHIN IT.
EEEE-EEK!!
YOU ARE LATE!
!
L-L-LET'S GET GOING.
BUT JUST LOOKING AT THE SCHOOL FROM OUTSIDE AT NIGHT IS SO EERIE...
YOUR VOICE IS SHAKING, MILADY PRESI-DENT.
I D-DON'T MIND A GHOST OR TWO...
I SAY WE TAKE PICS OF ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS AND UPLOAD THEM TO THE WEB.
Y-YOU'RE SO RELIABLE, HIMARI.
HMPH

CALL ME BY MY NAAAME! GRAAAH!!
ZA (RUSTLE)
TO (TMP)
ZA
ZA
KUESU !?
MY. THE FLAT-CHESTED COMMONER AND THE CLASS PRESIDENT ARE HERE TOO?
... SEVERAL ASTRAL BODIES HAVE BEEN SEEN ...
...RANGING FROM A YOUNG MAN TO BOYS AND GIRLS WHO APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN STUDENTS HERE.
BY NATURE, EVIL SPIRITS ARE THOSE WHO SLOWLY BUT SURELY SAP THE LIFE ENERGY FROM THOSE THEY POSSESS, BUT...
...IN THIS CASE, THEY'VE BEEN SUCKING THEM DRY IN ONE FELL SWOOP UNTIL THE VICTIMS LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS.

THEY SEEM TO HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN... WE MAY VERY WELL BE DEALING WITH AN IRREGU-LARITY HERE.
IT WILL BE A TOUGH LESSON, BUT ONE WORTH LEARNING FROM.
K-KUESU-SAN. YOU'RE JUST AS THE RUMORS SAY...LIKE A REAL WITCH.
I'M A PROFES-SIONAL WITCH.
SFX: SUCHA (STRUT)
...HOHH. I SEE HOW IT IS.
DOES KUESU NOT HIDE THE FACT THAT SHE'S A WITCH?
BUT IF A CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICE DOESN'T START STANDING ON HIS OWN WITHOUT THE HELP OF HIS ASSISTANTS, I'LL BE IN TROUBLE.
YOU PLAN TO HAVE THE YOUNG LORD SETTLE THIS CASE SO THAT HE CAN EARN POINTS.
THAT'S ASKING FOR TROUBLE IN ITSELF
HIMARI.
ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE, YOUNG LORD.
MY SUPPORT CONTRIBUTES TO THE AMAKAWA STRENGTH AS WELL.

...WHAT... IS GOING ON OVER THERE?
MEOOOW.
.....
HISHI (GRIP)
'TIS MIGHTY QUIET.
YES... BUT MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...
KATSUUUN
KATSUUUN (CLIIICK)
RINKO, DID YOU NOT SAY YOU WERE CAPABLE OF HANDLING ALL MANNER OF SUPER-NATURAL BEINGS?
SUKA (POKE)
SUKA
I'M F-F-F-F-FINE WHEN IT COMES TO MONSTERS, I-I AM!
B-BUT GHOSTS ARE A L-LITTLE...
THE KIND YOU CAN BEAT UP
I FEEL THEM..
PUNYU (SMOOSH)
PUNYU
I'M SORRY, AMA-KAWA-KUN...

IT'LL BE OKAY! I'M HERE WITH YOU!!
YUUTO ...
UGH... I'VE BEEN LOSING MY COOL IN TESTS OF COURAGE AND STUFF FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
(GYUUU (SQUEEEZE)
ALL I EVER SHOW YUUTO IS MY PATHETIC SIDE...
AWW. GOSH! WHAT IS THIS? I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH SIMPLE WORDS EASED MY HEART!
IS THAT MY INNER MAIDEN I SENSE?
THOUGH I'M ACTUALLY A LITTLE SCARED OF HOW YUUTO'S TURNING OUT TO BE A NATURAL-BORN LADY-KILLER!
OOOOH!

AH... OKAY.
BIKI (CRACK)
UM! UM! WH-WHAT ABOUT ME...?
YOU CAN TAKE IT EASY TOO, PRESI-DENT. OKAY?
MM. ...LET US DO SO.
SHALL WE SPLIT UP INTO TWO GROUPS?
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE. I TOO SHARE YOUR SENTI-MENT.
...I AM IRRITATED TO THE <MAX> RIGHT NOW.
OH YEAH! I'M A LITTLE CHILLED, SO I'M SHARING HIS BODY HEAT! HIS HEAT!!
UH, THIS IS, U-UM...
WHAT ARE YOU CLINGING TO HIM FOR!?
HEY! YOU'RE S'POSED TO BE A FAN OF ALL THINGS OCCULT, PREZ!
SFX: SUTA (STRIDE) SUTA SUTA
GRRRR! WHO DECIDED THAT A BLADE LOSES TO A ROCKKK!?
MY YASUTSUNA COULD EASILY CLEAVE A BOULDER!
YUUTO-OOOO!
HOH HOH HOH. WELL, HAVE FUN! ♡
BA (WHIP)
ROCK, PAPER —!!
BA
PE (SPLAT)

HRNNGH! 'TIS ALL YOUR FAULT THAT WE HAVE HAD TO PART FROM THE YOUNG LORD!
OH, SH-SHUT UP!!
BUT IT MIGHT'VE BEEN INEVITABLE IN ORDER TO WRAP UP THE SEARCH SOONER ...
STILL, I'M WORRIED ABOUT THEM.
JUST THINK! WE'RE LEAVING THE DUNCE YUUTO ALONE WITH A THIEVING, MAN-EATING WITCH!
SHE DOES NOT LACK SO MUCH COMMON SENSE AS TO BECOME SEXUALLY AROUSED IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST.
AND IF THAT WITCH TRULY IS SO SEX-CRAZED... I SHALL CUT HER TO RIBBONS.
GOOD POINT. UNLIKE A GHOST, AT LEAST YOU CAN BEAT HER TO A PULP.
B-BY THE WAY, NOIHARA-SAN, WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY "SOMETHING HERE"?
WELL, IT CANNOT BE HELPED... AFTER ALL, THERE IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING HERE.

SEX-CRAZED WITCH LACKING COMMON SENSE
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I WAS HOME-SCHOOLED.
SO AS FAR AS SCHOOL GOES, THERE WAS ONLY THE ROYAL MAGIC SOCIETY IN ENGLAND.
MAGIC...
WH-WHAT KIND OF PLACE WAS IT?
HEY! SAY, KUESU. HAVE YOU EVER GONE TO A REGULAR SCHOOL LIKE THIS ONE?
NO.
D-DIDN'T SHE SAY SHE WAS 64 CM.?
OH, I KNOW! NOW'D BE THE PERFECT TIME TO ASK ABOUT THAT.
SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY TOUCHING. SOMETHING SUPER-SOFT AND... AGH, MUST THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING ELSE.....
MUNYUN (SQUISH)
PUNYUN (SMOOSH)
K-KUESU, DON'T HOLD ME SO TIGHT...
U-FU-FU! ♡ WHY NOT? IS SOMETHING TOUCHING YOU THAT SHOULDN'T BE?

NEW KNOWLEDGE, NEW RESEARCH— ALL THAT WAS FUN.
AT LEAST UNTIL I READ EVERYTHING THEIR LIBRARY HAD TO OFFER...
DID YOU NOT... MAKE ANY FRIENDS?
IT'S SIMILAR TO THE MAGIC SCHOOL DESCRIBED IN THAT SERIES.
THE AUTHOR WAS A GRADUATE OF THE MAGIC SOCIETY.
WOW~! SOUNDS INTERESTING.
YOU EVER WATCH THOSE "HAIRY POOTER" FILMS?
ONLY THE FIRST THREE. WHY?
1-B
IS THIS YOUR CLASS, YUU-CHAN?
...I HAD NO NEED TO.

KURU (FWIP)
WH-WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
GUI
GUI (SHOVE)
NOW, NOW! TAKE YOUR SEAT!
HELLO, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT.
HER NAME IS KUESU JINGUUJI-SAN.
SHE'S A BUDDING WITCH AND HAS JUST RETURNED HOME FROM ABROAD.
PLEASE TREAT HER KINDLY.

NEXT TO AMA-KAWA-KUN!
ガタ
GATA (CLATTER)
HERE!
YOUR SEAT WILL BE—
くる
KURU
くる
KURU
NICE TO MEET YOU...
...NEIGH-BOR! ♡
KUESU—

KUESU... HAS PROBABLY NEVER EXPERI-ENCED THIS BEFORE...
HEH
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU PLAY ALONG
SHE'S BEEN A DEMON SLAYER EVER SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE...
GATA
MY, WHAT A KIND SYSTEM YOU GO BY HERE.
SINCE YOU JUST TRANS-FERRED HERE, YOU CAN PULL YOUR DESK UP TO MINE AND READ FROM MY TEXTBOOK UNTIL YOU GET YOUR OWN.
IF ONLY KUESU COULD HAVE SHARED MORE OF THIS KIND OF TIME WITH US—!
GU (CLENCH)
YES...
...SO THIS IS HOW YUU-CHAN, RINKO-SAN, AND EVERY-ONE ELSE SPENDS THEIR DAYS.
GATAN (CLACK)
!
IT'S SO FAR FROM THE WORLD I LIVE IN—

...TRUE...
KUESU, THAT'S NOT...
!!
BUT NOW YOU'RE ON MY SIDE, YUU-CHAN.
YES! TRY AS YOU MIGHT TO ESCAPE IT!
LIVING THIS NORMAL LIFE SURROUNDED BY NORMAL PEOPLE IS NOW JUST YOU PLAYING MAKE-BELIEVE!!
DON'T BE AFRAID. DON'T FRET. I'M HERE.
FROM NOW ON, I WON'T LET ANYBODY CHALLENGE THE DECISION YOU'VE MADE, YUU-CHAN.
K-KUE-SU...

JUST AS YOU ARE STILL THE SAME YUU-CHAN WHO MADE THAT PROMISE ON THAT DAY...
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
I WILL DO YOU THE FAVOR OF GUIDING YOU BACK.
IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR WAY, YUU-CHAN—
...THIS IS ME BEING NATURAL... AND SINCERE.

—THIS PLACE IS CERTAINLY DIFFERENT AT NIGHT THAN DURING THE DAY.
FOR WHAT DO YE LOST SOULS SING?
SHURA (SMILING)
W-WAIT, CAT PRINCESS! EXPLAIN THIS SO ORDINARY PEOPLE GET IT TOO!
F-F-FOR AN IMITATION SWORD, THAT'S EMITTING A PRETTY FREAKY LIGHT!! IS IT THE ANCIENT ARTS!?
HEH
OR DO YE WAIT UPON SOME-THING... OR SOME-ONE?
TAN (TMP).

MENAGERIE 46: THE CAT CHARGES INTO THE HOTBED OF DEMONS

HAA-
AAAH
!!
ZA
(ZIP)
ZA
ZA
OOOO
(WHOOOO)
DADAN
(BABAM)
PIN
(FLICK)

MENAGERIE 46:
THE CAT CHARGES INTO THE HOTBED OF DEMONS

CRAP, I GOT SWEPT OFF MY FEET.
I GET WHAT KUESU'S SAYING, BUT...
KUESU, WAIT.
MM...
MOSO (SQUIRM)
.....!

I-IT'S HERE, KUESU !!
MMPH!
GU (SHOVE)
...I KNOW.
YURA (WAVER)
OOOOO (WHOOOO)
ZAN (SLASH)

WOOOW ...!
BUON (WHOOSH)
.....!
WAIT, WHAT GOOD IS DISPEL-LING IT!?
AREN'T WE HERE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THEIR PLAN!?
WE ARE!
SFX: WARA (WAFT) WARA
BUT WHEN SHE INTERRUPTED MY RARE, SWEET ALONE TIME WITH YOU, YUU-CHAN...
...MY RAGE GOT THE BETTER OF ME.
AND LOOK. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY. THERE ARE PLENTY MORE.
UWAH, WAH, WAH, WAAA-AH!!
KURU (FWIP)

NOW, YUU-CHAN, GO AND SCORE SOME POINTS.
GOOD LUCK. ♡
SC-SCORE POINTS HOW?
THEY'RE GHOSTS
FIRST WE HAVE TO FIND THEIR GOAL...
WH-WHY ARE YOU GUYS ATTACKING THE LIVING?
YOU'RE THE SPIRITS OF THOSE WHO WENT TO THIS SCHOOL BEFORE, RIGHT?
.....
WHY ARE YOU ONLY NOW SUDDENLY ATTACKING PEOPLE!?
(OOOOON (VOOOOSH)
ウオオオオン
YUU-CHAN !!
UWAH!

KYAAH!
DOGASHA (CRASH)
OW!
KU-ESU, YOU OKAY?
DAMN ...!
YES...
AND YOU, YUU-CHAN? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
EEP ...!
WH-WH-WHA—!?
MONYU (SMOOSH)
もにゅ
AH ...!
NN!
MONYU
もにゅ
I-I'M SO SORRY!!
WELL... THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD DO.
NICE ONE, SPIR-ITS!

HARD TO SAY... THAT BLASTED HITSUGI DID TELL ME, "IF I TOLD YOU WHO IT WAS, IT'D TAKE ALL THE FUN OUT OF IT, KUH-HEE-HEE."
BUT OF COURSE KUH-HEE-HEE!
...THEY MENTIONED A "HIM," BUT WHO COULD IT BE?
WELL, PROBABLY THE ONE BEHIND ALL THIS.
YEAH, BUT WHO? ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T KNOW, KUESU? YOU DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING?
... FOR HIM ...
WE GATHER THE ENERGY OF THE LIVING... FOR HIM...
!!
I'VE MANAGED TO KEEP THE INTRUDERS AT BAY, SO NOW...
...IF I CAN JUST GET TO FIRST BASE WITH YUU-CHAN, I WON'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS.
HMPH!
JUST TO REMIND YOU, THIS IS MY TEST...
I KNOW. I DON'T WANT TO WASTE TOO MUCH TIME, SO...
IF THEY WOULD ONLY SETTLE DOWN, THIS WOULD BE A CINCH.
NOW, WHAT TO DO ...?

LISTEN HERE, YOU PATHETIC STIFFS! BEHAVE YOURSELVES AND SHOW US TO YOUR MASTER AT ONCE!!
KUWA (ROAR)
OR ELSE I'LL THROW YOU TO THE BOTTOM OF COCYTUS, WHICH IS AS FAR FROM RESTING IN PEACE AS IT GETS!
AND YOU'LL SPEND THE REST OF ETERNITY GETTING A TASTE OF WHAT REAL TORMENT IS!!
ZA (ZIP)
ZA
ZA

I- I SAW THIS IN A GAME ONCE!
A GIRL WITH A SWORD WAS MOWING DOWN ALL THESE HIDDEN SPECTERS IN A SCHOOL AT NIGHT!
SHE'S SLICING UP THE GHOSTS! EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T HAVE ACTUAL BODIES!!
EEEP ~!
HAH-WAH ~!
OOOO (WHOOO)
ZASHL (SLISH)
HYUN (SWISH)
HMPH.

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THE FORCE OF MY BLADE SCATHED THE FLOORS AND WINDOWS.
EVEN WITHOUT BODIES OF FLESH AND BLOOD, THEY STILL EXIST.
PERHAPS IF I DESCRIBE IT AS MY YASUTSUNA INTERFERING WITH THEIR MAGNETIC FIELDS, YOU CAN FATHOM IT?
I-I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING!
ERRR
ARE THESE GROUNDS FOR SUS-PENSION, MILADY PRESI-DENT?
SHU (SHWFF)
THESE DEPARTED SPIRITS ATTACKED STUDENTS ...
THEY ARE NOT BEHAVING LIKE TYPICAL WANDERING SPIRITS OR EARTH-BOUND SOULS.
KUESU WAS RIGHT. SOME-THING OR SOMEONE IS BEHIND THIS.
SO NOW WHAT? IF YOU'RE DONE GETTING RID OF THEM, LET'S FIND YUUTO'S TEAM AND GO HOME.
THAT CANNOT BE DONE.

WAIT! THIS IS THE FOURTH FLOOR!
ばい
BA (BAD)
!
...HEY, YOU TWO. LOOK AT THAT.
THERE WEREN'T ANY NIGHT PRACTICES TODAY, RIGHT?
HMPH. HE IS EITHER INVITING US TO HIM, OR KUESU GOT THERE FIRST...
WE SHALL KNOW ONCE WE GET THERE.
.....
NOIHARA-SAN SURE IS...
U-UUH, A SUPER-CAT-GIRL?

DAN (THUMP)
GAKOON (BOOOONK)
DAN
DAN
DAN

—WELL, WELL.
IF IT ISN'T A CUTE DEMON-SLAYER COUPLE.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
SHUTEN-...
...DOUJI.

SHU (WHSH)
!
ZAN (SLASH)
KYU (SQUEAK)
BA (HOP)
...FORGIVE ME.
YOU BROUGHT ALONG YOUR CRIMSON BLADE KITTEN AS WELL, I SEE.
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT BY A WORTHY LESSON?
LADY "TWILIGHT MOON."

HIMARI!
WHERE ARE THE OTH-ERS?
STUPID CAT SHE MADE IT HERE TOO, HUH?
TCH ...!
MY, MY. I'M SURPRISED AT HOW QUICKLY YOU SNIFFED ME OUT...
I WAS HOPING TO KEEP UP THE WHOLE "FOREST FOR THE TREES" PLOY.
THEY SHALL BE ALONG SHORTLY.
TON (TMP)
NOT TO WORRY.
HMPH. YOU THOUGHT THAT AFTER UNLEASHING ALL THOSE SPIRITS, YOU WOULDN'T BE FOUND OUT?
OH, THEM?
I DIDN'T EXPRESSLY DEMAND ANYTHING OF THEM.
UPON OUR ARRIVAL, THEY MISTOOK ME FOR THE KING OR PRINCE OF HELL, YOU SEE?
EVER SINCE THEN, THEY'VE BEEN COMING TO ME AND OFFERING THE LIFE ENERGY THEY'VE COLLECTED.

—SO...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN MY SCHOOL?
NOW THAT YOU'RE ON TO ME, THIS IS A TOTAL LOSS ON MY END.
MY, WHAT A SHAME.
HA-HA-HA.
YOU MIGHT GAIN SOMETHING YOU NEVER EVEN IMAGINED, YOU KNOW?
DAMN THAT HITSUGI! SHE KNEW ...!
GOOD QUES-TION...
HMPH
ONLY I WAS THINKING I'D TAKE A LITTLE BIT FROM THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.
BASICALLY, I'M HERE FOR WHAT THEY'RE ALREADY DOING.

—SO DID YOU END UP FINDING THE OTHER FRAGMENTS WHILE YOU WERE ACTING ON YOUR OWN?
'TIS A GOOD THING YOU WERE AWAY.
SO WE CUT HER DOWN TO SIZE AGAIN.
I HAVE TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU FOR THAT TOO.
IF I HAD KNOWN THAT TAMA-SAN WOULD ACT ON HER OWN, I WOULD HAVE STOPPED HER.
...I HAD SOMETHING ELSE TO DO.
PIKU (TWITCH)
INDEED. SHE GOT CHEEKY AND GREW UP ON US.
...WHILE I WAS AWAY, YOU ALL BULLIED TAMA-SAN, DIDN'T YOU?
AND AFTER ALL...

YOU SURE MADE YOUR ROUNDS. NASUNO IN TOCHIGI PREFECTURE. KATSUYAMA IN OKAYAMA PREFECTURE. JOETSU IN NIIGATA PREFECTURE.
AKITA-KATA IN HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE. BUNGO-TAKADA IN OITA PREFECTURE... GOOD WORK.
!!

HOW DID YOU ...?
THE PLACES WHERE THE NINE-TAILS' FRAGMENTS WERE SCATTERED ACCORDING TO SHINSHOU GENNOU,* EH?
*SHINSHOU GENNOU: A FAMOUS MONK FROM THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

...IT WAS SO LIKE HER TO NOT EVEN TELL ME YOU'D BE RIGHT HERE.
EVEN AFTER YOU ERASED YOUR AYAKASHI AURA, SHE USED A NUMBER OF METHODS TO CONTINUE TRACING YOUR WHEREABOUTS.
IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR YOU TO REVEAL YOURSELF TO HITSUGI YAKOUIN.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I GET TO SHOW UP IN THIS CHAPTER, HUH? KUH-HEE-HEE!

.....
CLASS PRESI-DENT, LISTEN UP.
HUH?
WE SHOULD GET AWAY FROM HERE.
IT MIGHT ALREADY BE TOO LATE. HE MAY HAVE ALREADY NOTICED US.
BUT WE SHOULD TRY TO NOT INTER-RUPT—
YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN DISCOVERED.
BUT I WON'T USE YOU AS HOSTAGES, SO YOU CAN REST EASY.
...THAT REMINDS ME, ONE OF THE STUDENTS SAID THEY SAW A YOUNG MAN. YOU THINK THAT'S HIM?
GOING BY WHAT HE SAID, HE'S A FRIEND OF THE FOX.
IN OTHER WORDS... AN ENEMY!! AND A BOSS-LEVEL ONE AT THAT!?

MILADY PRESI-DENT.
RINKO!
.....
COLOR ME A TAD JEAL-OUS.
WELL, WELL. YUUTO AMAKAWA-KUN, YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH CUTE GIRLS, I SEE.
. . . . .
...IS YOUR FAVORITE?
SO! WHICH...
ZUGAYGYAAAAN (WHABAM)

AH HA HA!
...OHH? DID I HIT A SORE SPOT?
.....
...THIS SUITE FOR TAMA-SAN AND I HAS BEEN SPOILED.
...STILL, IT'S A PITY THAT AFTER INFILTRATING THE KITTEN'S WEAKENED BARRIER...
HOW ABOUT WE DO THIS!?
!!
HUNH?
HOW DO YOU PLAN ON FIXING IT?
COME AGAIN?

HYU
(WHOOSH)
GIN
(CLANG)

MENAGERIE 47: DEMON CLAWS VS. CAT CLAWS
I SHOULD GO AND GIVE THEM A GOOD SCARE MYSELF ...
BASA (FWAP)
GOING ON A NIGHTTIME EXPEDITION TO THE SCHOOL AFTER DINNER..... WHAT A BUNCH OF CHILDREN... YOU KNOW.
PI (PLIP)
THE DISHES ARE DONE...YOU KNOW.
Channel 00 Animal Travel Special
The Snake Kingdom's most mysterious python finally caught on film! Enter the habitat of the snake in a never-before-seen way, in places never before visited by man. What will the discover in the ancient Amazonian jungle!? .....
...THE SNAKES ON TV ARE NO BIG DEAL... YOU KNOW.
I'M WAY STRONGER!
NEXT WE HAVE A BREED SPREADING ACROSS THE GLOBE
Pi

MENAGERIE 47: DEMON CLAWS VS. CAT CLAWS

KUH ...!
GAGI (THWACK)
ZUZA (ZIP)
FUWA (FLOAT)
YOU SAVED ME, HI-MARI!
JIN (STING)
YOU MAY ONLY BE PARTIALLY REVIVED, BUT I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS FROM A DEMON LIKE YOU...
MY SOFT, FAIR SKIN FEELS QUITE THE BURN FROM THAT SALLY.
JIN

I AM MOST DELIGHTED BY YOUR COMPLIMENT.
ZA (FWSH)
ZA
ZA
AND YOU! DID YOU KNOW YOU'VE BECOME TAMA-SAN'S FAVORITE?
WHEN I TRY MAKING A MOVE ON YOU, TAMA-SAN GETS SO UPSET.
IF YOU COULD, PLEASE WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES, WON'T YOU?
HUH?
FOOL! I AM THE YOUNG LORD'S BODYGUARD AND PROPERTY.
WHOA, WHOA .....!
THE WHIM OF SOME FOX MEANS NOTHING TO ME!
DAAAAA (GLOOOOW)
AH-HA-HA! THAT'S NO SURPRISE...
OOPSIE.
SHUN (YWIP)
ZUOOO (BZZZZT)

YOU THERE! DEMON AND CAT!
HYUGO (RUMBLE)
ヒュゴ
GO
GO
GO
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE GREAT KUESU JINGUUJI-SAMA!?
THOUGH HUMAN, YOU ARE A DEMON SLAYER WHO IS ABOVE HUMANS.
CAN YOU DEFEAT ME?
STAND DOWN, JINGUUJI WITCH.
YOUR ARTS ARE TOO POWERFUL TO USE IN THIS PLACE.
HMPH!
SLI (STEP)
HOW COULD I FORGET YOU?
THE BEAUTIFUL AND NOBLE "TWILIGHT MOON," THE LIGHT OF THE MOON THAT ILLUMINATES THE NIGHT SKY...
WH-WHAT IS THIS...?

BASA
BASA
BASASA (FLAP)
HA!
IF IT'S <DEATH> YOU WANT, I'LL SHOW NO MERCY AND SEND YOU ON YOUR WAY AT ONCE!!
OOOOO (WHOOOO)
!!
... HMPH.
I-I'LL PRO-TECT THE CIVIL-IANS!
I'LL TAKE ON ANY/ ONE OF YOU! COME ON, I DARE YOU!
HUH? ME!?
BI (JAB)
...AND SO! NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO MOP THE FLOOR WITH HIM, YUU-CHAN!

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT, THEN CLOSE YOUR EYES AND COVER YOUR EARS.
IT MAY SEEM IMPORTANT TO YOU, BUT TO US IT IS A TRIVIAL MATTER.
KUESU!
KUE-SU-SAN ...
NO QUESTIONS ALLOWED.
THAT CROW... IS A SHIKIGAMI.*
SU (STEP)
PERHAPS I SHOULD ALSO STAY MY HAND...

*SHIKIGAMI: AN OBJECT OR CREATURE THAT ACTS AS A SORCERER'S AGENT.

MY, YOU'RE UNEXPECTEDLY TOUGH.
RINKO! KUESU-SAN! OVER THERE !!
HMPH!
SORRY, BUT THANKS TO YOU AND THE CAT PRINCESS, I'VE BEEN MADE PAINFULLY AWARE OF MY OWN POWERLESSNESS!
BUT I CAN'T JUST COWER HERE WITH MY EYES SHUT!!

KA (FLASH)
DON'T GO DYING ON ME, YOU HEAR?
GOLIN (VOOM)
WELL, LET THE GAMES BEGIN!
ZUOO (BZZZT)
UWAH!
HEY, CAT! YOU BETTER PROTECT YUUTO AMAKAWA WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT!!
GAAAH!
YUUTO !?
UWAH... I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO CLOSE MY EYES.
THOSE WEREN'T SFX WERE THEY?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YOUNG LORD!?
HE IS GONE WE MUST GO AFTER HIM!
YEAH WHERE'D HE GO?
THIS TAKES ME BACK... WHAT A PLEASANT EVENING

WHEN I WAS IN KYOTO, I HELD THE GRANDEST FEASTS WITH MY MINIONS EVERY EVENING, IF I RECALL.
I'M SO FAR REMOVED FROM THAT NOW...
...I FEEL OVERCOME WITH SENTI-MENTALITY—
—WHAT HAVE YOU THERE, YOUNG LORD?
HM?
IT'S AN IRON RULER FROM MY CLASSROOM. I'M JUST BORROWING IT.
WELL, 'TIS MOST PRECARI-OUS TO BE UN-ARMED.

HE IS NOW ON THE ROOF AND DOES NOT SEEM TO BE TRYING TO HIDE HIS AYAKASHI AURA IN THE LEAST.
JUSTICE AND EVIL ALIKE WOULD SEEM TO BE FOND OF HEIGHTS.
...LISTEN WELL, YOUNG LORD.
!
TONIGHT TAMAMO-NO-MAE IS NOT HERE. HE WILL THEREFORE NOT MAKE THIS PLACE THE SITE OF THE FINAL BATTLE.
HOWEVER, THERE IS NO NEED FOR US TO INDULGE HIS CONVENIENCE.
YOU MUST CRUSH HIM, YOUNG LORD.
!
CRUSH HIM..... CAN I REALLY DO IT?
.....
ARE YOU UNSURE?

HI-HI-HIMARIII...
GACHI カリ
GACHI (TWITCH) カリ
.....
MM... NN...!
CHUPU (SMACK)
... MM.
CHU (KISS)
GUNYU (SMOOSH)
AHM...
MM...
SURI (GRIND)
MM... PHEW.
CHUPO (POP)

IF YOU CRUSH HIM...
...I WILL DO SOMETHING EVEN NICER FOR YOU.
UH... AH...
HM-HMM! I DO HOPE THAT ROUSED YOU INTO ACTION.
E-EVEN NICER?
GOKU (GULP)
I SHALL MAKE A MAN OUT OF YOU.
Y-YOUNG LORD...
NN... NN...!
BUUUU! (SPLUUURT)
ぶぅ〜

THAT CROW... I SUPPOSE THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO MENTION THAT THEY ARE WATCHING US.
CHIKI (CHINK)
HIMARI.
L- LET'S GO, HIMARI!!
UWOOOOAH!
YOU ARE SPEAKING IN A HIGH-PITCHED VOICE, YOUNG LORD.
L... L...
GYU (SQUEEZE)
LE...
DON'T EXPOSE ... YOUR CAT EARS OR TAIL, ALL RIGHT?
CERTAINLY.
...YES.

HIS ALLERGIES ARE HIS BIGGEST ENEMY WHEN TRYING TO ACTIVATE THE "LIGHT FERRY."
THERE IS NO AVOIDING IT.
(GRIP)
I WON'T LET HER TURN INTO A CAT OR USE HER AYAKASHI POWERS!
HIMARI'S IN DANGER OF GIVING IN TO THE DARKNESS ...
THERE IS THE ROOF. READY YOURSELF, YOUNG LORD!
(DASH)
RIGHT !!
HERE WE GO !!
(SLAM)

SHU-
TEN!
DOU-
JI!!!
ZA (SH)
ZA
ZA
HEH
!!

GABA (GRAB)
WAIT, HIMARI !!
MEO... HM?
KAAA (BLUUUSH)
GUNYUMU (SMOOSH)
AH... THIS SAME SCENE TOOK PLACE IN CHAPTER ONE
ZUZA- (SLIP)

WELL, WELL. I SET UP AN AYA-KASHI POWER NET, BUT...
PAKIN (BZZT)
...IT SEEMS YOU SAW RIGHT THROUGH IT.
PAKIN
(BAKI (CRACK)
FOR A NOVICE, YOU BEHAVE LIKE A DEMON SLAYER...
YOU NEARLY MADE MY CAT EARS COME OUT
DOKI (BADUM)
LECHER! HOW DARE YOU SUDDENLY GROPE MY BOSOM.
DOKI
DOKI
I SAID WE COULD CONTINUE WHERE WE LEFT OFF AFTER YOU DEFEATED HIM!
S-SORRY!
OH DEAR, GIVE ME A BREAK...
REALLY NOW

GA (THWACK)
BA (LEAP)
ZA (ZIP)
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
GIRI (STRAIN)
I DON'T MIND. AIMING FOR THE OPPONENT'S OPENINGS IS A BASIC OF FIGHTING.
I CAN'T ALWAYS PLAY FAIR!
...SORRY, BUT I'M JUST A NOVICE.
I WON'T CALL YOU A COWARD FOR THAT, SO NO WORRIES.

HAAH!
ZUSHAA (SLISH)
!!
YOUNG LORD!
BA (CHOP)
ZA (ZSH)
FOR NOT PUTTING YOUR WEIGHT INTO IT, THAT WAS A PRETTY SERIOUS BLOW.

GUH!
GA (GRAB)
GOO (WHOOSH)
GI (STRAIN)
GI
GI
YOU'VE CHANGED, HAVEN'T YOU?
GI
GI
GI
GI
KUH ...!
I THOUGHT SO EARLIER, BUT YOU HAVE THE LOOK OF SOMEONE WHO HAS RESOLVED HIMSELF TO FIGHT..... IT'S SPLENDID, YOU KNOW?
ZA (ZIP)
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
YOUNG LORD —!!

HA HA HA! OH DEAR.
YOU GET JEALOUS NOT ONLY OF GIRLS THAT GET TOO CLOSE, BUT MEN TOO.
SHUU (WHOOSH)
TO (TMP)
!
BUN (SWING)
F-FOOL!
HYOI (CHOP)
SHUBA (SWISH)
!
ZA (CLICK)
BY THE WAY, LITTLE KITTEN, YOUR HAIR MAY BE LOVELY, BUT IT WILL BE YOUR DOWN-FALL, YOU SEE?

NO MATTER HOW NIMBLE YOU MAY BE...
...YOUR LONG LOCKS WILL ALWAYS BE SLOWER THAN THE REST OF YOU.
GU (TUG)
GA (GRAB)
GU (YANK)
AH!
HIMARI !?

MENAGERIE 48: THE CATS FLIRT WITH THE MYSTIC MOON

GOSU (SHNK)
GA (GRAB)
HIMARI!!
NIYA (SMIRK)
CALM YOURSELF, YOUNG LORD...
WHY, YOU...! LET HIMARI GO!!

I CAN GET OUT OF THIS...
すっ
(TWIST)
っすりzu
...BY MYSELF ...!
INDEED. IF YOU UNLEASHED YOUR MONSTER CAT NATURE, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHAKE ME OFF, BUT...
...HOW COME YOU WON'T DO JUST THAT?
KUH ...!
HOW DESPICABLE OF YOU...
THIS IS WHY WOMEN WILL ALWAYS FORSAKE YOU, YOU KNOW?
HI-MARI, YOU...
DON'T EXPOSE YOUR CAT EARS OR TAIL, OKAY?
...YES. CERTAINLY.
...LET HER GO.
(SILENCE)
ピっ

BASA (FLAP)
BASA
SU (STEP)
COME NOW, IF YOU DON'T GET OUT SOON, DON'T YOU SEE I'LL BREAK YOUR ARM?
M.S.H. (CREAK)
BATA (FLAIL)
BATA
CURSES! THIS IS NOTH-ING...!
I SAID, LET HER GO.
DOKUN (BADUM)
—LET HER GO.

RE-LEASE HIMARI ...
ドクン
DOKUN
PAAAA (GLOOOM)
アアアア

YOUNG...
LORD?

!!
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME THAT YOU'RE NOT ALL BARK AND NO BITE?
KUI (CUP)

BA (LUNGE)
WHY, YOU-UUU !!

OH!
AH!
FU (POOF)
YORO (STAGGER)
ZA (ZAP)
ZA
ZA
WHAT ...!?
GA (GRAB)
YOUNG LORD!
YUU-CHAN!

DO YOU REALLY THINK SUCH A DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT WILL GO OVER SO EASILY IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT?
ONLY WHEN SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO YOU IS IN TROUBLE DO YOU FIRST GET SERIOUS, AWAKEN TO YOUR POWERS, AND FIND YOURSELF FREED OF HESITATION...
GIRI (SQUEEZE)
WHAT... DID YOU SAY!?
LEARN THE EXTENT OF YOUR LIMITS, BOY.
TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING, PROTECT SOMEONE— OR WIN FOR THAT MATTER— WITH SUCH SLOPPY RESOLVE MAKES ME LAUGH.

UWAAH!!
BUN (FLING)
WELL! THAT WILL BE ALL FOR TODAY!
I HAD FUN AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN!
OOF!
BOFU (POOMF)
ぼふっ
YOUNG LORD!
...KUH!
ZUKI (THROB)
WHERE IS SHU-TEN-DOU-JI?
NO LONGER NEARBY.
.....

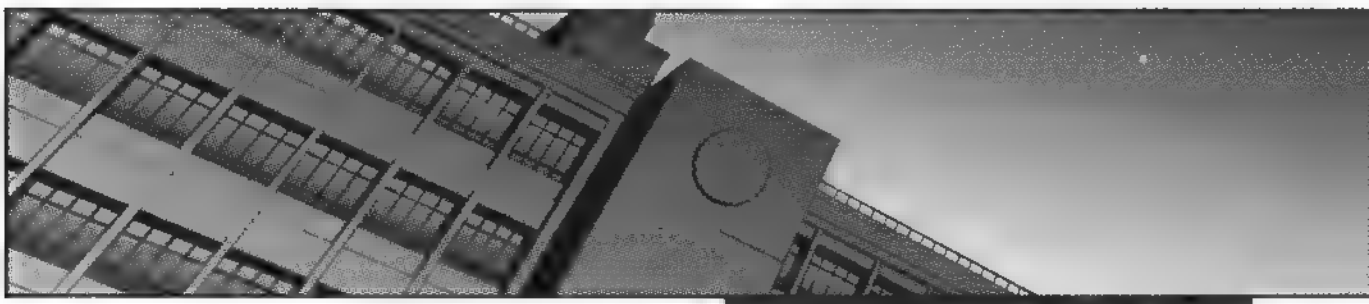
SO, PREZ ...
...ANY QUES-TIONS?
THERE'S A LOT I WANT TO ASK ABOUT, BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.
THOUGH NOT ASKING MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M RUNNING AWAY FROM SOME-THING...
SO CAN I TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON THAT?
OKAY.
I GUESS THAT MEANS NO UPLOADS TO THE WEB.
.....
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
YUUTO...

KUH-HEE-HEE..... IT'S FUN WATCHING YOUNG-STERS IN TROUBLE.
HE IS OLDER THAN YOU, IS HE NOT, YAKOUIN-KUN?
HITSUGI... NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, I'M SLAPPING YOU IN THE FACE.
HIRA (WAVE)
OOOH, SCARY.
NEXT TIME WE MEET, I WON'T FORGET TO BRING MY FULL-FACE SHIELD.
SO, MISTER TSUCHI-MIKADO, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF IT ALL?
INDEED.
IT WAS FORTUITOUS TO HAVE HAD THE OTHER FRAGMENTS SEALED UP BY THE KAGAMIMORI SISTERS AHEAD OF TIME.
THEY ARE DEAD SOULS WHO HAVE ONCE BEEN DEFEATED IN THE PAST.
WE ARE IN NO HURRY, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT. I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE BOY.

HE'S HONEST AND GOOD-NATURED, SO WE'RE PROBABLY OVERTHINKING THINGS.
THERE IS NO NEED TO GIVE A SECOND THOUGHT TO WHAT SHUTEN SAID.
IT WAS THE SAME AS TELLING HIM TO THROW AWAY ALL LOGIC AND BECOME A BEAST GOVERNED BY INSTINCT WHEN HE FIGHTS.
DEMON SLAYERS ARE NEITHER BEASTS NOR MECHANICAL WARRIORS. THEY ARE HUMAN.
...
BUT HE SUFFERS, HESITATES, AND THINKS.
HE'S SO NAIVE. SO ADORABLE. KUH HEE HEE...
—THAT IS WHY I AM HERE.
LIKE A GUIDING LIGHTHOUSE?

THANKS A LOT!!
EVEN SO, YOU'RE ALSO NOT EXACTLY STABLE YOURSELF.
BOFJ (POOMF)
—WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, I ONCE MET NOIHARA AND HIM AS A YOUNG BOY.
I HEARD THAT AFTER THAT, HE RAN AWAY WITH HIS PARENTS, BUT...
...IF HE HAD STAYED ON TO RECEIVE TRAINING FROM AMAKAWA THE ELDER, BY NOW HE WOULD BE—
YEAH, SORRY, BUT I'M AVERSE TO "WHAT-IF" TALES BY MY VERY NATURE.
YES, INDEED.
I WON'T LOOK INTO HIS FUTURE.
WATCHING THE GAME IN REAL TIME IS FAR MORE FUN.
KUH HEE HEE
HAVING INHERITED AMAKAWA THE ELDER'S BLOOD...
...I ONLY PRAY THAT HE DOESN'T GO DOWN THE WRONG PATH.

THE COMMON BOY WILL BECOME AN ADULT THROUGH HIS BATTLES.
THE CATALYST, SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH...
...WAS PROBABLY LITTLE MISS CAT GOD THERE. KUH-HEE-HEE...
ZA (ZSH)



DAMN...I COULDN'T DO ANY-THING.
NAH... COME ON IN.
YOU HAVE NOT YET EXTIN-GUISHED YOUR LIGHTS ?
KON (KNOCK) !!!
YOUNG LORD..... MAY I ENTER?
SFX: SARA (SHWF)
THINKING ALONE BY ONESELF IN THE DARK WILL ONLY DISPIRIT YOU, YOU REALIZE?

—THE GHOSTS ON CAMPUS WILL NOT BE ATTACKING ANY MORE STUDENTS.
BESIDES, YOU MOST LIKELY WILL NOT GET TO THE BOTTOM OF WHAT IS PLAGUING YOU, SO YOU MAY AS WELL SLEEP.
HA-HA-HA. YOU THINK?
ぽふっ
BOFU (POOMF)
HRMMM
WE FUL-FILLED OUR MAIN GOAL.
WELL DONE.

I KNOW NOT HOW MUCH THAT APEELED TO THE DEMON SLAYERS, BUT...
...KUESU PRAISED YOUR ACTIONS!
SHE SAID SO HER-SELF!
ばっ (DART)
ば
ばっ
NO?
STOP BROODING SO MUCH. THE CASE OF THE SCHOOL YARD GHOSTS IS DONE! REJOICE!
IN-DEED!
'TIS SO!
にっ (GRIN)
ONCE SASAZUKA-SENPAI AND THE REST HAVE RECOVERED, THE CASE REALLY WILL BE OVER.
YEAH... GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT...
...THAT'S NOT ALL THIS IS ABOUT.
!

IT WAS THE SAME AS WITH TAMAMO-NO-MAE. EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T SEE THEM...
...BY THE TIME WE REALIZE IT, THEY'RE RIGHT NEXT TO US, AMONG US...
THEY CAN GET IN ANY-WHERE THEY FIND AN OPENING.
... CONSIDER OUR RUN-IN WITH SHUTEN-DOUJI A MERE ACCIDENT.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR HIS WORDS TO SWAY YOU.
HM? THEN WHAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS THINKING ABOUT.
IT MAKES ME WONDER IF I'M REALLY FIT—
SU (SWF)
...COULD HAVE BEEN HARMED.
AND EARLIER, RINKO AND THE CLASS PRESI-DENT...

.....
THAT IS WHY YOU MUST NOT TAKE ON EVERY-THING BY YOURSELF. YOU WILL DO YOUR BODY HARM.

I SHALL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE.
HIMA-RI—
?
YOUNG LORD?
WH-WHAT IS THE MATTER, YOUNG LORD?
WH-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...? I'M GROPING HIMARI ...!
GU (GRIP)
GYU (HUG)
AH!
NN ...!

...SO YOU ARE CONTINU-ING WHAT WE BEGAN IN THE HALL-WAY.
HFF!
HFF!
AH ...!
GUI (YANK)
GO AHEAD, YOUNG LORD...
BUT I ASK... ...THAT YOU BE GENTLE.

GOGOGOGOGOGO (RRRRRUMBLE)
BISHI (TIGHT)
GUH!?
REPORT IN...YOU KNOW...
SHI—
SHINZUKU!?

I WAS LEFT TO WATCH A BORING TV PROGRAM...
NNGH!
GUH..
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SCHOOL AT NIGHT ...?
REPORT IN FULL AND LEAVE OUT NO DETAILS... YOU KNOW!
THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL DEEP THROATING, YOU KNOW
TCH
GGGHGWOOH!

—AAAW, AFTER CHATTING WITH RINKO, I'M SUPER-LATE NOW.
TA (TMP)
IF I DON'T GET HOME SOON, A YOUNG GIRL LIKE ME COULD BE...
HM?

A YOUNG GIRL COLLAPSED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET... THIS IS QUITE A TO-DO!
BUT THEN, I'VE JUST SEEN GHOSTS AND FIRE SHOOTING OUT OF SOMEONE'S HAND...
GIMME ALL YOU GOTTT!!
HEY, WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOU? ARE YOU OKAY!?
GABA (GRAB)
...I'M HUNGRY.
GUUUU (GROOOWL)
HUH?

IT'S "LET'S CHANGE HISTORY ~! ♪"
OUR FIRST-CLASS PARTNER-SHIP!
LOVE HAS HONED MY SENSES SHARRRP ~!
RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT WE ALL SING OUR OWN LYRICS, AND WHOEVER CAN SING THEM WITH-OUT GETTING DISTRACTED BY THE REST OF US WINS?
...IT'S DIFFUSING THROUGH THE SPARKLING WATERRR ~!
I TOLD YOU THOSE AREN'T THE WORDS, YOU AWFUL CAT!!

MENAGERIE 48.5: THE CATS' SKETCHBOOK ☆ MEDIA MIX

THAT WILL BE FOUR MEDIUM BEERS AND TWO OOLONG TEAS.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SAE-CHAN? WHAT'S GOT YOU DOWN TODAY?
WELLL-COME!
...SHIT, I CAN'T CONSENT TO THIS. GOD-DAMMIT!

..SAE-CHAN, YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT BLATANT PROPA-GANDA.
HRM
HEAR ME OUT!!
YUUKO, HAVE YOU READ IT?
THE NOVEL VERSION OF "OMAMORI HIMARI," WRITTEN BY KOUGETSU MIKAZUKI.
IN IT, I'M WRITTEN TO BE LIKE A WOMAN WHO'S "GOT NO LUCK WITH MARRIAGE AND IS SHORT ON MEN." DAMMIT!
THAT'S JUST FLESH-ING OUT YOUR CHAR-ACTER
YOU DO COME TO SCHOOL IN ATTIRE THAT IS VERY UN BECOMING OF A TEACHER EVERY NOW AND THEN, SAE-CHAN
HE COULD'VE PORTRAYED ME LIKE THE SEXY TEACHER WHO'S THE OBJECT OF ADORATION FOR ALL THE MALE STUDENTS.
COME AND GET IT, BABY
U FU FU

DIDN'T THEY REFER TO YOU AS A FINAL BOSS-LEVEL KIND OF PERSON ...?
DAN
DAN (BANG)
I JUST WANT THE KIND OF ROMANTIC LOVE THAT WOULD SET ALL OF AMERICA SHAKING AND CRYING. IS THAT SO WRONG!?

I HOPE YOU SPEND YOUR ENTIRE LIFE UNMARRIED! CURSE YOU!!
STOP THAT, SAE-CHAN YOU'RE HITTING A REAL NERVE
WATA
WATA (FLAIL)
AND ANOTHER THING! EDITOR M SAID, "HUH? YOU'RE PUTTING KISARAGI-SENSEI ON THE BACK COVER OF VOLUME 8? MATRA-SAN, THAT WON'T DO"!!

DOKI
DOKI
DOKI (BADUM)

カチャ
KACHA (CLINK)
BIKUN (JOLT)
びくん
BIKUN
Ahh
カチャ
KACHA
KYU (HOLD)
きゅっ
BIKU (JOLT)
ビク!!!
BIKU
ビク!!!
PHOO
HAAH... AAAAAH! YUUTO-SAN IS... TOUCHING MY...!!

HAAH, YUUTO-SAN'S LIPS ARE ON MY.....!
AAH...!
BIKUN
GOKU (GULP)
CHU (SIP)
BIKUN
HUFF!
HUFF!
N..... NO, YUUTO-SAN...
BIKUN
M-MY LEMON TEA'S GOING TO BOIL OVER...!
AH ...
FORGOT
..... HM? THIS ISN'T MY USUAL CUP.

(STAAAARE)
AW, NOTHING. SHE SAID, "I'M GOING TO TRAUMATIZE THE PEOPLE THAT CAME FROM THE ANIME~! ♪"
.....WHAT'S GOING ON?
(KIRAAAAN GLEEEAM)
メラーン
I-IDIOT!!
WAIT, YOU...!
MIDDLE FINGER
IN THAT CASE, I FEEL THAT SHOWING *THE LOWER HALF* OF HER BODY WOULD HAVE A MORE DESTRUCTIVE POWER.

I SECOND THAT!
I PROPOSE AN ADVANCEMENT OF THE LITTLE SISTER CHARACTER STATUS IN "OMAMORI HIMARI"!
IF YOU COULD JUST SELL US MORE, I'M SURE YOU'D MAKE A BIG HIT!
...ARE A PRIMARY FACTOR IN SECURING THE KEY TO VICTORY!!
THIS IS NOT JUST SOME FAD. LITTLE SISTER CHARACTERS...
LOOK HOW CUTE YOUR LITTLE SISTER IS!
HA
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
KUH-HEE-HEE.
WHY NOT!?
I COULD BELIEVE THE AMAKAWA BOY HAVING A LITTLE SISTER, THOUGH.
KUH-HEE-HEE. BECAUSE YOUR OLDER BROTHER AND OLDER SISTER ARE ALREADY NOTHING MORE THAN CAMEOS.

SAYING "I LOVE YOU" IS SO SIMPLE AND CLEAR. EXPOSING YOURSELF LIKE THAT IS WHAT LOVE AND PEACE IS ALL ABOUT!
LOVING YOU WITH A BARE HEART. OH, MY RACING HEART, DON'T DECEIVE ME.

I'M GONNA SING A SONG BY SOMEONE WHO SENDS THEIR PANTIES FLYING OR A CHAINSAW-WIELDING ZOMBIE!
SING THE SONG THEY DO IN "OMAMORI HIMARI HR"!
CHECK, CHECK. YOUR E-MAILS GO INTO A SPECIAL FOLDER.
KUH... IT'S TOO HARD TO JOIN IN WHEN YOU SING SUCH AN EXCLUSIVE SONG!!

TO BE CONTINUED...

HERE'S VOLUME 8. THE SPECIAL FEATURE IN THIS VOLUME IS THE RETURN OF THE EVERYDAY SCHOOL LIFE, WHICH WE HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE THE SHIZUKU ARC! HAVE WE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL SERVING AS THE FOCAL POINT AGAIN!? ...AS IF (HEH!)! I'VE BROKEN MY PROMISE AND LET THE CHARACTERS DO WHATEVER THEY LIKE. THAT'S JUSTICE IN THE *OMAMORI HIMARI* WORLD... ONLY WITH DEATH TRAPS EVERYWHERE. KUH-HEE-HEE.

DECEMBER 2010, MILAN MATRA

SPECIAL THANKS TO: STUDIO HIBARI-SAMA, SHOUYOU SAIJOU-KUN, KOUGETSU MIKAZUKI-SENSEI, AND KUROYA-SAMA (VILMA)

OMAMORI HIMARI 8

MILAN MATRA

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

OMAMORI HIMARI Volume 8 © MATRA MILAN 2011. Edited by FUJIMISHOBO. First published in 2011 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo, through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, INC., Tokyo.

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
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First Yen Press ebook Edition: August 2012

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-24742-9

App ISBN: 978-0-316-21195-6